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zReagan Administration Weighs Broader CIA Rol

zBy Michael J. Sniffen

zAssociated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Reagan administration expansion of the CIA's authority to use break- surveillance and covert infiltration of Americ businesses; sources say.

Sources familiar with the proposal said Monday it was designed as part of an effort to combat terrorists more effectively; but also was intended to improve leak investigations and the CIA's ability to spy on foreign economic developments.

But they acknowledged it would eliminate some barriers established to prevent the agency; set up in 1947 to gather foreign intelligence; from re-entering the search for alleged domestic subversives.

The barriers were established after scandals over the CIA's spying in the 1960s on American anti-Vietnam War activists.

The Reagan administration proposal was drafted by an interagency working group; chaired by CIA general counsel Daniel Silver and composed of representatives from the CIA; FBI; National Security Agency; Defense Department and others; according to the sources; who asked not to be named.

The sources said President Reagan had not yet approved the proposal to relax Carter's executive order regulating foreign-intelligence gathering.

The sources said the proposal would not so much expand the government's authority to gather information secretly as it would increase the number of agencies that could do so in this country.

But they said the proposal would allow the CIA to conduct break-ins; physical surveillance and infiltration against American groups and companies in instances in which it formerly was forbidden to do so.

"The proposals were developed in the context of combating terrorism. But the immediate impetus was to improve the quality of leak investigations and the gathering of foreign positive intelligence; like the enormous amounts of foreign economic data held by U.S. multinational corporations;" said one source. "But at the same time; it reduces the barriers against the CIA doing things like Operation Chaos or COINTELPRO."

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